

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate that the Examiner found the application in condition for allowance. The present amendment addresses the remaining issues in the order in which they appear in the office action of September 3, 2004.

The Abstract of the Disclosure stands objected to because it is not formatted as a single paragraph. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to replace the objectionable abstract with the "Abstract of the Disclosure" that is attached hereto on a separate page and to withdraw the objection.

The drawings stand objected to because in Figure 1 the boxes are not individually labeled with descriptive names. In response to this objection, applicants submit the attached replacement sheet Fig. 1 which shows the boxes appropriately labeled and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

The drawings stand further objected to because Figure 1 includes reference characters not mentioned in the description, namely "20", "22", and "24". When investigating this objection, Applicants found that the specific paragraph in the original German text of the patent application was not included in the specification of the U.S. application. Applicant's undersigned patent agent has translated the missing paragraph and hereby certifies that the new paragraph presented hereinabove for inclusion in the specification is an accurate translation of the text of the German language priority document. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 14 stand objected to because there are no periods at the end of the claims. Withdrawal of this objection is likewise respectfully requested, as the missing periods have been appropriately amended herein.

While acknowledging applicants' claim for foreign priority based on a European patent application filed September 24, 2002, the Examiner noted that

applicants have not yet filed a certified copy of said application. Applicants will submit the required certified copy to the Examiner under separate cover.

Applicants respectfully submit that all issues of the Office Action of September 3, 2004 have been appropriately addressed by the foregoing amendment and remarks. Allowance of the present application with claims 1-14 is hereby earnestly solicited.

Dated: November 3, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 5257
New York, New York 10150-5257
(212) 527-7700
(212) 753-6237 (Fax)

By Walter E. Kupper
Walter E. Kupper
Registration No.: 34,954
Patent Agent for Applicants

Attached:

Replacement Page “Abstract of the Disclosure”

Replacement Page "Figure 1"

